

NOTE ON THE EUCOSMID (OLETHREUTID) MOTH *CRYPTOPHLEBIA*  
*OMBRODELTA* (LOWER)

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At the request of Mr. J. D. Bradley of the British Museum a search has been made in the Oswald B. Lower collection, at the South Australian Museum, for the type of the *Eucosmid* (*Olethreutid*) moth described from Sydney by Lower (1898, p. 48) under the name *Arotrophora* (?) *ombrodelta*.

There were five specimens in Lower's main collection preserved in the South Australian Museum, standing above a name label reading *Argyroproce illepida* Butler. Two examples were from Kuranda, Queensland, and three from Brisbane. Two of the latter bore his register number, L.2857.

Under this number an entry was found, reading:—"*Arotrophora ombrodelta* Lower. 5 specimens Sydney and Brisbane." Internal evidence suggested this entry was made between the years 1897 and 1900.

Lower seems subsequently to have made an amending entry indicating his later conclusion that the name *ombrodelta* was a synonym of *Argyroproce illepida* Butler. Another entry, possibly still later, says "? *pyrrhias* Meyrick."

The five examples grouped together by Lower in his collection agree with *Cryptophlebia ombrodelta* (Lower) as defined by Bradley (1953), and with ones from the T. P. Lucas collection picked out as *C. ombrodelta* by Mr. J. D. Bradley when making a brief passing visit to Adelaide in February 1954. Thus deductions made by him about the identity of Lower's species are confirmed.

If further check be needed it can be deduced from the register entries that the Brisbane specimens numbered L.2857, by O. B. Lower, belong to the species regarded by him as *ombrodelta*, and that at the time he made the entry he had acquired several Brisbane examples as well as possessing a Sydney specimen which was his type.

The Sydney specimen itself unfortunately was not present in the series in his main cabinet. It could have been destroyed. However, search in other drawers of duplicates produced a solitary female specimen, with one wing injured and labelled merely as "Australia, Lower Coll." This label had been placed on the specimen at the time of its acquisition by the South Australian Museum. Agreement between this specimen and the original description proved very close, and with reasonable certainty it may be regarded as the type. It can be assumed only that when Lower came to consider his species synonymous with Butler's *illepida*, he placed it among his duplicates as an example no longer of particular interest.

In view of the renewed interest in it the specimen has been restored to the main collection and provided with an appropriate label by the present writer. An entry has been made also in Lower's Register to indicate the circumstances of its recovery.

Fig. 1 is based on the type specimen, enlarged to approximately x4. The general colour of the wings and body is pale brown with darker greyish-brown markings. The large semilunate spot near tornus of forewing is rich chocolate brown outlined with pale ochreous brown.

As indicated by Bradley (1953, p. 681) the identification of *Cryptophlebia ombrodelta* has had the effect of replacing the somewhat more familiar, but later published name *C. carpophaga* Walsingham for this economically important pest of tropical and subtropical pods, fruits, seeds and stems.

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Study of the South Australian Museum specimens enables some new locality records to be made so that its range, as so far known, is:—

Distribution in Australia—New South Wales: Sydney. Queensland: Brisbane, Duaringa, Kuranda. Northern Territory.

Distribution outside Australia (*vide* Bradley)—Java, Philippines, Guam, Dampier Island, Formosa, Ceylon and South Africa.

Foodplants on which it has been reported include:—*Parkinsonia aculeata* (leaves and pods), *Cassia* (pods of *C. fistula* and *C. occidentalis*), several species of *Acacia*, *Aegle marmelos* (fallen fruits), *Sesbania aculeata* (pods), *S. grandiflora* (seeds), *Feronia* (fruits), *Bauhinia purpurea* (pods), *Adenanthera pavonia*, *Pithecolobium dulce*, and it has occurred on orange fruits, litchi fruits and seeds, and tamarind fruits.

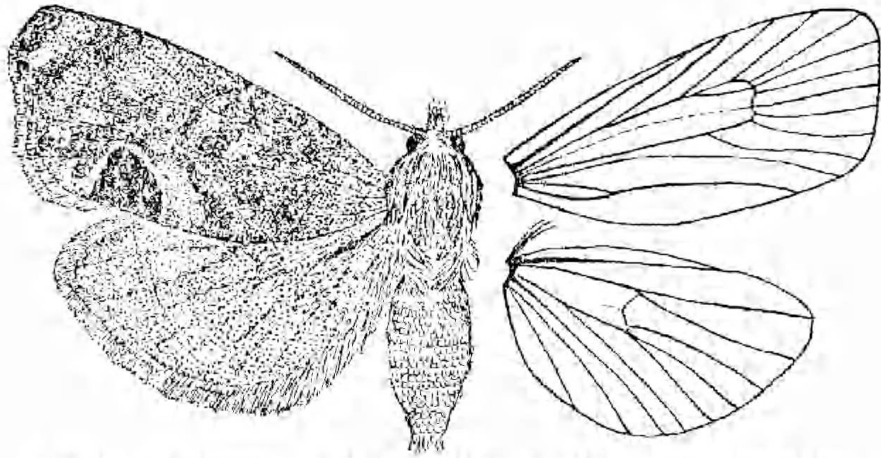


Fig. 1. *Cryptophlebia ombrodelta* (Lower). Type, a female, Sydney.

Seventeen other species of this genus are on record, of which the following have been reported from Australia:—

*Cryptophlebia iridosoma* (Meyrick)

Queensland: Brisbane, December 1905 (Lectotype in British Museum). This species is represented in the South Australian Museum by specimens from Brisbane, October 1885, Cairns district, and Kuranda.

*Cryptophlebia rhynchias* (Meyrick)

Reported from Queensland by Bradley but not represented in the South Australian Museum collection.

#### REFERENCES CITED

- BRADLEY, J. D. 1953 Bulletin of Entom. Research, London, 43, 682  
 LOWER, O. B. 1898 Proc. Linnean Soc. New South Wales, Sydney, 23, 48